STATE HOUSE, 1816-1865.

HISTORY

OF



FROM THE ORIGINAL GRANT IN SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE TO THE OPENING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CITY HISTORY COMMISSION

JAMES O. LYFORD, Editor



VOLUME I

AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY GOVERNMENT JANUARY 14TH, 1896

THE RUMFORD PRESS, Concord, N. H. 1903

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THE HISTORY COMMISSION
OF CONCORD.

ORDINANCE CREATING CITY HISTORY COMMISSION.

CITY OF CONCORD.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX.

AN ORDINANCE

Providing for a History of the City of Concord.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Concord as follows:

That Amos Hadley, Howard F. Hill, Benjamin A. Kimball, James O. Lyford, Lyman D. Stevens, and John M. Mitchell be and the same are hereby appointed and constituted a committee of which the mayor shall be ex officio a member and chairman, all to serve without pay, to employ some competent and satisfactory person to write the history of Concord to the present time and to procure its publication, said committee to devise some plan or project whereby the city, as such, shall be saved from considerable expense in the matter, subscriptions to be obtained to the work, and data and material collected for the same; and for said purposes the sum of two hundred dollars is hereby appropriated from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, subject to the order of the duly-elected treasurer of said committee upon its organization, and to be expended under the direction of the committee.

The said committee to be known as the City History Commission, the members thereof to serve until others are elected in their stead, and any vacancy in said commission from death, resignation, or inability shall be filled immediately by election in the City Council and said Commission shall report progress from time to time to the City Council, and shall incur no expense beyond the sum of two hundred dollars hereby appropriated without first obtaining proper authorization from the City Council therefor.

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen January 14, 1896.

HENRY ROBINSON, Mayor.

In Common Council January 14, 1896. Passed in concurrence.

HARRY R. HOOD, President.

PREFACE.

The first public consideration of a history of Concord to supplement that of Dr. Nathaniel Bouton was at a meeting of the Commercial club in the winter of 1893. The subject was brought to the attention of the club by Postmaster Robinson, and received favorable consideration. No action was taken, however, until December, 1895, when in consultation with several citizens Mr. Robinson, then mayor, suggested that some expression of the public be obtained by petition. Following out this suggestion Isaac Andrew Hill prepared and circulated the following petition:

To the Honorable Henry Robinson, Mayor of Concord:

As mayor of our city and as president of the Concord Commercial club, we beg to call your attention and to ask your co-operation as far as may be proper, to the subject of a history of Concord.

It is now nearly half a century since Dr. Bouton completed his work, and the book is now long out of print, and almost impossible to buy.

Since 1853 we have become a municipality. We feel that the time is now ripe for the preparation of a history embodying these great changes, both material and personal, and we respectfully request you to call the attention of the aldermen and common council to this most desirable undertaking.

BENJAMIN A. KIMBALL, JAMES S. NORRIS, LEWIS DOWNING, JR., JOHN M. HILL, JOHN KIMBALL, LELAND A. SMITH, JOSEPH B. WALKER, GEORGE A. CUMMINGS, EDSON J. HILL, Franklin D. Ayer, E. J. Aiken, Woodbridge Odlin, Lyman D. Stevens, John Whitaker, Daniel B. Donovan, Milon D. Cummings, Cyrus R. Robinson.

This formal presentation of the project was read on December 10, 1895, before a convention of the city council, and was referred to a special committee composed of Mayor Robinson, Aldermen John F. Webster and David F. Dudley, and Councilmen George W. Bunker

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and Charles S. Piper. This committee reported favorably January 14, 1896, to the city council, introducing an ordinance, drawn by the mayor, providing for a history of Concord, appointing a commission to carry out the undertaking, and appropriating two hundred dollars to develop a plan of the history. The commission consisted of the mayor, ex officio, chairman, Amos Hadley, Howard F. Hill, Benjamin A. Kimball, James O. Lyford, Lyman D. Stevens, and John M. Mitchell.

This commission met at the office of Benjamin A. Kimball at the passenger railway station Saturday morning, February 1, 1896, and perfected an organization by the choice of James O. Lyford as secretary, who was subsequently chosen editor. An executive committee was appointed consisting of the mayor, James O. Lyford, and Howard F. Hill. The executive committee was directed to prepare and recommend to the commission a general plan of the history.

The second meeting of the commission was held February 10, 1896, at which the executive committee reported its plan, which was discussed by the commission, and then it was voted to ask the city council to appropriate two thousand five hundred dollars for the preparation of the history, the appropriation to be in the nature of a loan of the city's credit, the commission to secure subscriptions to that amount before asking for any further appropriation. At a regular meeting of the city council February 11, 1896, the request of the commission was granted and the appropriation made.

The plan of the history, as outlined by the commission and followed in the preparation of the work, provided for a general narrative, giving the story of the settlement of Concord and its growth from the date of its founding to the close of the year 1896. The general narrative was to be supplemented by a topical treatment of those subjects which could be better considered separately than in the general story. As the work progressed it was found that more time would be required to complete the history, and the date of closing it was extended to the beginning of the new century. Subsequently the various writers were engaged and the patient examination of data went forward. In the meantime a prospectus of the history was prepared and the soliciting of subscriptions begun. Within a year, and before any of the manuscript had been submitted

to the commission, subscriptions to the amount of three thousand three hundred dollars were secured, showing the popular interest in the subject.

The commission was appointed to serve without compensation, and no member thereof has drawn anything from the city treasury for his services as commissioner, while two, at least, have contributed financially to the success of the enterprise. All members of the commission are engaged in active business, yet it would be difficult to find a commission whose members have attended meetings with more regularity and punctuality. From the beginning of the work the commission has held at least two hundred and fifty meetings, and these meetings cover five city administrations,—those of Mayors Robinson, Woodworth, Martin, Sargent, and Corning. The meetings have been held at the office of Mr. Kimball, which he early gave to the use of the commission.

It has been the object of the commission to produce the history without material expense to the city beyond the loan of its credit. To this end the commission has sought voluntary contributions from those who were in a position to make them, and for such literary labor as it has given compensation the price paid is far from adequate for the time spent and the material prepared. To secure this result the contributions and employments have had to be subsidiary to other duties, which necessarily has delayed the completion of the This has not been without its advantages, for it has secured greater accuracy and condensation of statement. Since the first manuscript was ready for examination the work of each writer has been read to the full board for comment and criticism. In this work of examining manuscript the commission has had the assistance of the following citizens, who have attended its meetings in response to an invitation from the commission and have acted as associate members: Lewis Downing, Jr., Joseph B. Walker, Henry McFarland, Charles R. Corning, John C. Ordway, and Giles Wheeler.

The following articles are the gifts of the authors:

Physical Features of Concord . Joseph B. Walker.
Physical Development of Concord . Joseph B. Walker.
Canals, Stage Lines, and Taverns . Henry McFarland.
Concord as a Railroad Center . Henry McFarland.

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Medical History		•	Jacob H. Gallinger.
Church History	•		James O. Lyford.
State Hospital		•	Joseph B. Walker.
Margaret Pillsbury Hospita	1.	•	James O. Lyford.
Hospital for Women and Cl	hildre	n	James O. Lyford.
Dentistry		•	James O. Lyford.
Schools, Public and Private			John C. Ordway.
Concord Literary Institution	n.		John C. Ordway.
Methodist General Biblical	Instit	ute	John C. Ordway.
Newspapers		•	Frank W. Rollins.
State Prison		•	Joseph B. Walker.
Concord in the Civil War			Howard F. Hill.
St. Paul's School	•		James O. Lyford.
St. Mary's School	•		Thomas C. Bethune.
The Rolfe and Rumford As	ylum	•	Joseph B. Walker.
The Governor's Horse Guar	rds		James O. Lyford.
Fish and Game			Frank Battles.
Official Roster of Concord		•	James O. Lyford.

The special topics have relieved the general narrator, Amos Hadley, of the necessity of breaking the thread of his story by turning aside to give details on such subjects, which often detracts from the merits of a history, while the writers who have dealt with these special subjects have had opportunity to give a continuous account of the themes which they have treated. In addition to this there is a variety of style in the writing, which it is hoped will make the history more pleasing to the public.

The history is the joint production of citizens of Concord, some of them natives and all of them long-time residents. The illustrations have been in charge of Henry B. Colby, and have been prepared under the supervision of Benjamin A. Kimball. To obviate any question of discrimination, no portraits of individuals living or dead have been used. The illustrating has been of places and buildings of historic interest, public buildings, and such scenes of the past and present as posterity would desire to have preserved. The reading of the revised proof has been the contribution of Edward N. Pearson.

The spirit of this undertaking has been to give as complete, readable, and accurate a history of Concord as possible, exploiting

no enterprise and no individual, but preserving in compact form all those facts and incidents which present and future generations will find useful, instructive, and entertaining. How well the commission has succeeded the public can best judge when this book is in their hands.

CHARLES R. CORNING (ex officio),
AMOS HADLEY,
HOWARD F. HILL,
BENJAMIN A. KIMBALL,
JAMES O. LYFORD,
LYMAN D. STEVENS,
JOHN M. MITCHELL,
City History Commission.

To the secretary and editor, James O. Lyford, credit should be given for the labor he has performed and the capacity he has shown in the preparation of this history. His contributions to its pages are but a part of his work. The plan of the history, combining a general narrative with topical treatment of special subjects, is his, and the burden of securing voluntary contributions, conducting correspondence, arranging material, and attending to the many details, has fallen upon him. The ability with which he has discharged these duties has contributed in no small degree to the success of the undertaking.

CHARLES R. CORNING.
AMOS HADLEY.
HOWARD F. HILL.
BENJAMIN A. KIMBALL.
LYMAN D. STEVENS.
JOHN M. MITCHELL.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND THREE.

AN ACT

To Incorporate the History Commission of Concord.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

SECTION 1. That the mayor of Concord, Amos Hadley, Howard F. Hill, Benjamin A. Kimball, James O. Lyford, Lyman D. Stevens, and John M. Mitchell, their successors and assigns, shall be and hereby are made a body politic and corporate by the name of the History Commission of Concord.

SECT. 2. This corporation shall receive, when published, all copies of the History of Concord, authorized by said city by ordinance passed January 14, 1896, and ordinances and resolutions supplementary thereto, and shall have the custody and control thereof, and shall provide for their sale, fixing the price thereof with the approval of the City Councils of Concord, and account to said city for all moneys received therefrom.

- SECT. 3. This corporation is empowered to appoint an agent or agents to carry out its work and to fix their compensation.
- Sect. 4. Any vacancy in the incorporators shall be filled by the city councils upon recommendation of the remaining members.
- SECT. 5. The mayor of Concord, Amos Hadley, Howard F. Hill, and James O. Lyford, or any two of them, may call the first meeting of this corporation not later than May 1st, 1903, and at said meeting or any adjournment thereof may take such measures as are necessary to complete its organization.

Sect. 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

[Approved March 24, 1903.]

The incorporators of the foregoing act met April 4, 1903, and organized by the choice of Lyman D. Stevens as president, Howard F. Hill as clerk, and Benjamin A. Kimball as treasurer. Notice of the acceptance of the act of incorporation and of the organization was filed with the mayor and City Councils, who accepted and approved the same April 13, 1903.

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